



Effective Health Care

Infection in Asplenic Patients

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Infection prevention in asplenic patients using vaccinations was found to be addressed by the 2012 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' guidelines titled *Recommended adult immunization schedule: United States, 2012* and the 2012 Committee on Infectious Diseases' guidelines titled *Recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedules—United States, 2012*. Given that the existing guidelines cover this aspect of the nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Recommended adult immunization schedule: United States, 2012. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2012; 156: 211-7. PMID: 22298576.
 - Committee on Infectious Diseases. Recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedules—United States, 2012. *Pediatrics* 2012; 129(2): 385. PMID: 22303028.
- Infection prevention in asplenic patients using prophylactic antibiotics and patient/family education is not feasible for a review due to insufficient evidence at this time.

Topic Description

Nominator: Anonymous individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator indicates an interest in knowing the optimal ways to prevent infection in individuals of any age who are asplenic due to trauma or disease in order to prolong life.

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Population(s): People of any age with functional or anatomical asplenia (either due to trauma or disease)

Intervention(s): Vaccinations, prophylactic antibiotics, and patient education

Comparator(s): See above

Outcome(s): Prevention of any infection that could lead to septicemia, especially pneumonia, meningitis, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib)

Key Questions from Nominator: 1. For patients who do not have a spleen, what are some of the ways they can help prevent infections?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)

- This topic has three main areas:
 1. Vaccination to prevent infection in people with asplenia
 2. Prophylactic antibiotics to prevent infections in people with asplenia
 3. Patient/family education to prevent infections in people with asplenia

- Vaccination to prevent infection in people with asplenia was found to be addressed by the most recently published vaccination schedules for adults, children, and adolescents in the US produced by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Committee on Infectious Diseases. These reports detail the appropriate vaccination schedules for adults and children, with specific recommendations for vaccinations targeted to people with asplenia.

- There is very limited literature on the prevention of infection in asplenic patients by prophylactic antibiotics and patient/family education. Therefore, these topics are not feasible for full systematic reviews due to the limited data available for a review at this time.